SHANKARANAND): (a) A project entitled "strengthening the Survey Research Capabilities of the Population Research Centres" was taken up by Government of India with the funding support of United States Agency for International Development to the extent of US $ 3.3 million. One of the components of this project is carrying out a nation-wide National Family Health Survey.

(b) International Institute for Population Sciences (UPS), Bombay, which is under the administrative control of the department of Family Welfare, was designated as the nodal agency for the implementation of the above project. East West Population Centre, Hawai, was identified by USAID to provide technical guidance and supportat various stages of the project.

(c) Government of India is associated with the survey through different Committees set up for the purpose and also through the nodal agency. The preliminary reports prepared from the survey data, are shared with the concerned State Governments. In the data analysis and subsequent report writing phase, both UPS and all Population Research Centres are fully involved.

Incidence of fluorosis

1664. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is wide-spread incidence of fluorosis, the bone and tooth disease, in India caused by excess fluorine;

(b) with excess fluorine already present in potable water, whether Government would consider banning tooth-pastes containing fluoride, which are used by poorer sections of the population even in rural areas; and

(c) whether Government would also ensure compulsory fluoridisation of drinking water supplies all over the country to provide adequate in-take of fluorine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Fluorosis is endemic in 13 States of our country.

(b) The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1945 has permitted the maximum limit of flouride content in tooth paste as 1000 p.m.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Opening of PGI on the lines of AIIMS in Every State Capital

1665. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a post graduate medical institute on the lines of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the capital of each State; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not the cogent reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Health is a State subject and considering the limited resources available with the Government, the establishment of such institutions in the states is not considered feasible.

World Bank's AID to Check Leprosy, Blindness and T.B.

1666. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world Bank has approved three massive schemes, valued at about Rs. 1700 crores for eliminating leprosy by the turn of the century, controlling blindness in seven States and containing T.B. in five metropolitan towns; and

(b) if so. the details thereof and the progress so far made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The world Bank has approved financial assistance of Rs. 302 crores for leprosy Eradication Programme and the Blindness Control Project which is proposed to be implemented in seven states at an estimated cost of Rs. 585 crores, is under its consideration. Financial assistance for the T.B. Control Programme is being discussed with the World Bank and the total outlay is still to be determined.

The activities under National Leprosy Programme invblve extension of Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) services to 66 endemic districts, 77 moderately endemic districts and (MDT) support to endemic pockets of low endemic districts in the states of Uttar Pradesh, madhya pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Kerala, Manipur, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Daman and Diu, Haryana, J & K Chandigarh including extension of IEC, monitoring & evaluation, Ulcer and disability care and training and manpower development for all States.

The Blindness Contrl Project will be implemented in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, The world Bank preparatory Mission has recommended for implementation of TB Control Project in five States and 10 Metropolitan cities.

Establishment of Top Class Hospital in rural and semi-urban areas

1667. SHRI MENTAY PADMA-NABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to finance and establish top class hospitals in district based quarters all over the country;

(b) if not, what plans Government have to meet the health needs *of* rural and semi-urban areas;

(c) whether Government are aware that private medical practitioners are charging heavy fees for all cardiac problems, including surgery; and

(d) whether Government have turned a blind eye to this requirement of rural and semi-urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal. Health is a State subject and the provision of health care services is the responsibility of the state Governments. The Central Government has however been supplementing the State's afforts through various Centrally Sponsored health programmes aimed at the prevention and control of major diseases.

(b) and (d) The Government does not regulate the fees charged by the Private Sector. However, the State are advised about the existence of disparities and the need for targeting the services in underserved areas, including the remote rural areas and slum pockets.

Demand of Debate on Population Policy

1668. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether women's organisations have demanded a debate on population policy before finalisation of National Population Policy;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) by when Government propose to do that?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Group of Experts under Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has been constituted to draft the National